

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS AWARDED \$138,049 FOR MENTORING PROGRAM

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ulster County has been awarded a \$138,049 grant by the U.S. Department of Education. The funding, which comes from the Mentoring Grants Program, is expected to be renewed for two additional years.

"The Big Brothers Big Sisters program has had a very positive effect on the lives of disadvantaged children across the country and in our area," said Hinchey. "This grant will allow the organization to touch the lives of more children in Ulster County."

"This grant will allow us to serve one hundred disadvantaged youths in grades 3-5 in the Kingston School District and assist them in achieving their full potential academically, socially and emotionally," said Allen Thomas, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ulster County. "It provides us with funding for the staff necessary to match these youths with adult mentors."

The Mentoring Grants Program provides assistance to local initiatives with the greatest need that: (1) assist disadvantaged children in receiving support and guidance from a mentor; (2) improve the academic performance of these children; (3) improve interpersonal relationships between these children and their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members; (4) reduce the dropout rate of these children; and (5) reduce juvenile delinquency and involvement in gangs by these children.